



**CEQA and COASTAL DETERMINATIONS
and
NOTICE OF APPROVAL**

Project: Water Main Replacement by the City of San Diego at Centre City Embarcadero
Location: F Street between Pacific Highway and Kettner Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92101
 West A Street between North Harbor Drive and Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101
 Convention Way at the Marina Park Way intersection, San Diego, CA 92101
Parcel No.: Various
Project No.: 2021-024
Applicant: Jericho Gallardo, Project Manager, City of San Diego Engineering and Capital
 Projects Department, 525 B Street, Suite 750, San Diego, CA 92101
Date Approved: Apr 28, 2021

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project would involve replacement of water mains and associated works at three (3) public right-of-ways (ROW) by the City of San Diego (Applicant) in the City of San Diego, California. Work to specifically complete the proposed project would involve the following improvements at each location:

- F Street (between Pacific Highway and Kettner Boulevard): Replacement of an existing cast iron water main with approximately 635 feet (ft.) of 16-inch fusible pipe water main; approximately 120 ft. of pipe would be installed via trenchless construction. The improvements would result in eight (8) domestic water service laterals. Approximately 120 ft. would be installed using trenchless construction.
- West A Street (between North Harbor Drive and Pacific Highway): Replacement of an existing cast iron water main with approximately 614 feet (ft.) of 16-inch PVC water main; approximately 100 ft. of pipe would be installed via trenchless construction. One end of the new pipe replacement will be connected to an existing 16-in. PVC water main at North Harbor Drive while the other end will be connected to an existing 12-in. PVC water main at Pacific Highway. The improvements would result in two (2) domestic and five (5) fire service laterals. Approximately 100 ft. would be installed using trenchless construction.
- Convention Way (at the Marina Park Way intersection): Installation of a new 20-in. water main connector approximately 47 ft. long will be connected to an existing 20-in. water main; this new connection would replace the existing angular connection between two existing water mains and the remaining west end of the existing pipe would be abandoned. The improvements would result in two (2) domestic water service laterals.

The following construction methods would be used at each location: pavement saw cutting, pit digging, trenching and tunneling; valve closures, disconnections, abandonment and removal of existing defective water main portions; installation of new mains, laterals, piping, and fittings; placement of sand cushions and neoprene pads at pipe crossings; backfilling and street paving restorations including curb ramps and other right-of-way. The proposed improvements would be constructed in accordance with a project-specific Traffic Control Plan and the contractor would coordinate to ensure that construction would be conducted outside of special events conducted in the City of San Diego to reduce impacts to traffic and parking to the maximum extent feasible. Additionally, the proposed improvements would be conducted in accordance with the City of San Diego's Historical Resources Guidelines which implement the City's Historical Resources Regulations contained in the Land Development Code (Chapter 14, Division 3, Article 2) for portions of the project constructed that may encounter native soils. Furthermore, construction would be conducted in compliance with the City's "Whitebook" standards in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations. Construction of the proposed project is anticipated to occur in Fall 2021 and would take approximately fourteen (14) months to complete.

Due to its nature and limited scope, construction of the proposed project would generate a minor amount of vehicle trips and would require limited use of equipment. Therefore, significant impacts related to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and transportation and traffic are not anticipated to occur.

Furthermore, the Applicant would be responsible for complying with all applicable federal, state, and local laws regarding construction demolition debris, hazards and hazardous materials, and stormwater.

The following categorical determinations are based on the project submittal and all project information known to the District as of the date of this determination.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

CATEGORICAL DETERMINATION

Categorical Exemptions: SG §15301, Class 1/Section 3.a: Existing Facilities; SG §15302, Class 2/Section 3.b: Replacement or Reconstruction; and SG §15304, Class 4/Section 3.d: Minor Alterations to Land

3.a. Existing Facilities (SG § 15301) (Class 1): Includes operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, including but not limited to:

- (7) Existing facilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility service.

AND/OR

3.b. Replacement or Reconstruction (SG § 15302) (Class 2): Includes replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure being replaced.

AND/OR

3.d. Minor Alterations to Land (SG § 15304) (Class 4): Includes minor alterations in the condition of land, water and/or vegetation not involving removal of mature, scenic trees, including, but not limited to:

- (7) Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.

The proposed project is determined to be Categorically Exempt pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines and the Sections of the District's *Guidelines for Compliance with CEQA* as identified above. These are appropriate for the proposed project because it consists of replacement of water mains and installation of laterals within public ROW, would not result in a significant cumulative impact due to the continuation of the existing use, would consist of the replacement of existing facilities, would be located on the same site as the facilities replaced, would have substantially the same purpose and capacity, would result in no permanent effects on the environment, and would not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees. The District has determined none of the six exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption apply to this project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2).

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15062, a 35-day statute of limitations for this CEQA exemption shall apply from the date a Notice of Exemption is posted with the San Diego County Clerk, or a 180-day statute of limitations for this CEQA exemption shall apply if no Notice of Exemption is filed.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL ACT

PORT MASTER PLAN CONSISTENCY

Planning District: 3 - Centre City Embarcadero (Precise Plan Figure 11)

Land Use Designation: Streets

The portion of the proposed project located within the Coastal Development Permit (CDP) jurisdiction of the District conforms to the certified Port Master Plan because it would involve replacement of water mains and installation of laterals within public ROW, consistent with the existing certified Land use designation. The proposed project would not change the use of the site nor would it interrupt or expand the existing conforming use of the site.

CATEGORICAL DETERMINATION

Categorical Exclusions: Section 8.a: Existing Facilities; Section 8.b: Replacement or Reconstruction; and Section 8.d: Minor Alterations to Land

8.a. Existing Facilities: The operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, including but not limited to:

- (2) Public and private utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewer, or other utility services

AND/OR

8.b. Replacement or Reconstruction: Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located essentially on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced.

AND/OR

8.d. Minor Alterations to Land: Minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees, including but not limited to:

- (6) Minor trenching or backfilling where the surface is restored.

The proposed project is determined to be Categorically Excluded pursuant to the Sections of the District's *Coastal Development Permit Regulations* as identified above. These are appropriate for the proposed project because it consists of replacement of water mains and installation of laterals within public ROW, would involve negligible expansion of use beyond that previously existing, would be located essentially on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced, and would not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees.

Pursuant to California Coastal Act Section 30717, there is a 10-working-day period to appeal this "Coastal Act Categorical Determination of Exclusion" to the California Coastal Commission.

For the portion of the proposed project located outside of the District's CDP jurisdiction, additional approvals may be required from other agencies.

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE

The proposed project complies with Section 87.(a)(4) of the Port Act, which allows for the construction, reconstruction, repair, and maintenance of highways, streets, roadways, bridges, belt line railroads, parking facilities, power, telephone, telegraph or cable lines or landings, water and gas pipelines, and all other transportation and utility facilities or betterments incidental, necessary, or convenient for the promotion and accommodation of any of the uses set forth in this section. The Port Act was enacted by the California Legislature and is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine. Consequently, the proposed project is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine.

J. STUYVESANT
President/CEO

Determination by:
Michael Paul
Assistant Planner
Development Services

Signature: Michael Paul
Date: Apr 28, 2021

Deputy General Counsel

Signature: Chris Burt
Date: Apr 28, 2021